GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:21
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Prevention of Child Labour
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the details about provisions of laws imposed to prevent child labour exploitation in the country as on today;
(b)the details about effectiveness of these stringent laws in reference to the child labour existence in many parts of the country;
(c)the details of the number of child labourers as per the latest data available with the Government, State/UT-wise;
(d)whether the Government proposes to strengthen/amend statute on child labour and also improve enforcement of these Acts in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
(e)the other effective remedial measures taken by the Government to curb the child labour in the country?

Answer

(a): Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain occupations and processes and regulates the working condition of children in employment where they are not prohibited.
(b) & (c): The number of main workers in the age group of 5-14 years in the country is 43.53 lakh as per 2011 Census which shows a decline from 2001 Census. The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years as per 2011 Census, State-wise is given at Annexure.
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(d): A Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. The Government has decided to move Official Amendments to the Amendment Bill. The Official Amendments along with the Amendment Bill, inter-alia, covers complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years, linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and making the punishment for employer for contravention of the provisions of the Act more stringent. Further, the Amendment Bill empowers the appropriate Government to confer such powers and impose such duties on a District Magistrate as may be necessary, to ensure that the provisions of this Act are properly carried out.
(e): Considering the nature of the problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio-economic development. Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme under which children rescued/ withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA).

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